

voted against this measure as a matter of upholding the intent of the U.S. Constitution.

The Constitution established Congress and the Presidency with equal powers in the area of military affairs. Congress is responsible for raising and maintaining forces and legislating policy. The President, as Commander in Chief, is responsible for setting up the chain of command within our forces and executing congressional policy.

As a Member of the House of Representatives, I am aware of Congress' need to protect its powers. However, I believe it is also my duty to acknowledge the President's role under the Constitution as Commander in Chief.

This measure, which originated in the flawed Contract With America, is a partisan attempt by the Republican majority to selectively use congressional prerogatives. American Presidents have directed U.S. forces to serve in allied forces since the Revolutionary War. Examples include World War I, World War II, NATO operations, and Operation Desert Storm.

Under H.R. 3308, in 1990 President Bush would have been prevented from sending U.S. troops to the Middle East to contain Saddam Hussein. H.R. 3308 specifically limits the powers of the Commander in Chief to direct U.S. forces and, therefore, it is unconstitutional. I believe the American President, regardless of political party affiliation, should decide when, where, and how to deploy U.S. military forces.

Secretary of Defense Perry and Attorney General Reno have stated that H.R. 3308 is unconstitutional. In a letter to House Minority Leader GEPHARDT, Secretary Perry wrote, "I believe that H.R. 3308 is both operationally unjustified and unconstitutional."

In terms of operations, H.R. 3308 is a misnomer because, if enacted as law, it will in fact endanger the lives of American military men and women by preventing our forces from wearing protective United Nations identification insignia.

The UN insignia in question are blue helmets and blue shoulder patches designed to enable American forces, as well as others, to recognize friendly forces. Insignia are a proven method of protecting our soldiers' lives. They are worn to ensure the safety of our men and women. They help prevent friendly fire and make it possible to impose a recognized force on enemies.

Furthermore, the United Nation has established rules for protecting its forces by punishing those enemies who are against UN forces. These punishments can only be used to protect Americans who are fired upon while wearing UN insignia.

On this important issue of wearing insignia, all American military men and women must follow the commands of our Commander in Chief. Discipline is key to maintaining order in our services and, ultimately, to protecting our national security.

Only one American soldier has been court-martialed over the issue of wearing UN insignia. Thousands of American men and women have obeyed their President and served in multinational commands wearing U.S. uniforms and Allied forces insignia. These American military personnel have always retained their ultimate allegiance to the United States of America, while wearing UN or NATO insignia.

Americans serving in multinational commands have always followed the directions of

the American President, from Allied operations in World War II, to the United Nations Command established for the Korean war, the Desert Storm Coalition in the Persian Gulf war, and multiple NATO operations, including the present NATO Implementation Force [IFOR] in Bosnia.

During these operations, command of our military men and women has ultimately resided with the President as our Commander in Chief and our military leaders in the Department of Defense.

Finally, Presidential Decision Directive 25, a classified directive issued early in the Clinton administration, established steps to allay concern over U.S. troops under UN control. A declassified summary of this directive states:

The President retains and will never relinquish command authority over U.S. forces. On a case by case basis, the President will consider placing appropriate U.S. forces under the operational control of a competent UN commander for specific UN operations authorized by the Security Council [the UN security agency over whose decisions the U.S. has veto power]. The greater the U.S. military role, the less likely it will be that the U.S. will agree to have a UN commander exercise overall operational control over U.S. forces. Any large scale mission that is likely to involve combat should ordinarily be conducted under U.S. command and operational control or through competent regional organizations such as NATO or ad hoc coalitions.

There is nothing new about this Administration's policy regarding the command and control of U.S. forces. U.S. military personnel have participated in UN peace operations since 1948.

For all of these reasons, I strongly believe H.R. 3308 should not become law. Since the House has already passed this bill, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to oppose this measure. And, if this irresponsible legislation does pass the Senate, I support President Clinton's pledge to veto it.

HONORING MR. HOLCOMB "HOKE" EVETTS 1996 KINGS COUNTY AGRICULTURIST OF THE YEAR

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Mr. DOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise before my colleagues today to recognize a legendary figure in Kings County's agricultural community, Mr. Holcomb "Hoke" Evetts. Because of his impressive accomplishments, which span the decades, Mr. Evetts is being honored by his community as Agriculturist of the Year.

Mr. Evetts is most widely recognized for his involvement with what many consider to be the finest stockyard in the State of California. Mr. Evetts and his business partner purchased the modest Overland Stockyards nearly 40 years ago, and built it into one of the largest and most reputable agricultural establishments in Kings County. Mr. Evetts has served as a well-respected auctioneer for 55 years, and has even taken his talent to the world of motion pictures.

Over 50 years ago, Mr. Evetts joined the Rodeo Cowboys of America, now known as the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association. As a proud and caring husband, father and

grandfather, Mr. Evetts has shared his love of the rodeo with his family members, some of whom have competed in rodeo events with his same enthusiasm.

As a leader in the effort to improve his community, Mr. Evetts has garnered wide respect. Mr. Evetts embodies what everyone seeks in a leader—a true individual who utilizes his talents in order to serve others. As an auctioneer, Mr. Evetts helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for dozens of needy organizations.

There is no question that for Mr. Evetts, commitment to community and to agriculture is a way of life. He is a dedicated Valley resident who has played a major role in the development of Kings County agriculture. I applaud the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce and the Kings County Farm Bureau for recognizing his contributions.

TRIBUTE TO ALFREDO PEREZ

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 1996

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the utmost pleasure and pride that I rise today to recognize Mr. Alfredo Perez for his inspiration as a hard working American, dedicated teacher and valiant victim of crime.

Alfredo Perez was born in a small town in Jalisco, Mexico on November 23, 1965. When he was a boy of 8, he, his mother Maria Guadalupe Contreras de Perez and his seven siblings, Carlos, Francisco, Bertha, Hector, Guillermo, Jesus and Abelam emigrated to Oxnard, CA, to rejoin his father, Jose Perez. He attended El Rio Elementary School, then went on to Rio Del Valle Junior High. Alfredo received his high school diploma from Rio Mesa High School.

In the Fall of 1985 Alfredo entered the University of California Los Angeles [UCLA]. In order to pay for his schooling, he worked several part-time jobs. Alfredo graduated from UCLA in 1989 with a major in Sociology and a specialization in Business Administration.

Shortly after graduating from UCLA, Alfredo decided to enter the teaching profession. The importance of educating future generations was a challenge he took on with great devotion, commitment and love for children. He wanted to be a role model for children in the inner city. His main goal was to instill in them the desire to educate themselves and to make a difference in this world.

On the morning of February 22, 1996, Alfredo Perez was where he wanted to be—with his students. His 5th grade students were in the library at Figueroa Street Elementary School in Los Angeles. Gunfire from a gang-related incident disrupted the quiet building, and a stray bullet struck and entered Alfredo's brain. Despite suffering this potentially fatal wound, Alfredo's primary concern remained the safety of his school children. Paramedics found him waving the children to seek safe haven.

This incident has had a tremendous impact on our city for the simple fact that Alfredo is a gifted young individual who dedicated himself to helping the most vulnerable and precious members of our society: children. The obligation to work with the children of the inner